

**PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**

1418 HOWE AVENUE, SUITE 16, SACRAMENTO, CA 95825-3204

TELEPHONE (916) 561-8200 FAX (916) 263-2560

**CLINICAL SERVICE REQUIREMENT
FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED PHYSICAL THERAPISTS****APPLICANTS WHO ARE NOT LICENSED IN THE UNITED STATES**

Under Section 2653 of the Business and Professions Code of California, foreign educated physical therapists are required to complete a period of clinical service under the direct and immediate supervision of a physical therapist licensed by the Board which does not exceed nine months in a location approved by the Board, in a manner satisfactory to the Board. The applicant shall have passed the National Physical Therapy Examination prior to commencing the period of clinical service. During the period of clinical service you shall be identified as a "physical therapist license applicant." **However, you do not have physical therapist license applicant status until the Board has approved your clinical service facility and you have received written notification from the Board.**

Clinical sites are approved on a case-by-case basis. Please have the facility you select to fulfill your clinical service requirement submit a completed American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Clinical Site Information Form (CSIF) and the Notice of Intent form to the Board for approval. If the facility does not have a CSIF on file, one can be downloaded from the Internet www.apta.org/Education/clinical_edu (please indicate on question #8 of the CSIF if the number of budgeted positions is different from the number of filled positions.) The Notice of Intent form is available on the Board's Web site; however, a Notice of Intent form will be mailed to you once you are eligible to commence your period of clinical service.

Applicants are required to complete a nine (9) month period of clinical service; however, three months of clinical service may be waived if the applicant successfully completes a post secondary course in Law and Professional Ethics as offered by a post secondary institution or by successfully completing four (4) continuing education units in Ethics offered by a continuing education provider recognized by a California healthcare board (Section 1398.26.5). The applicant has the burden of locating the course. It is not the role of Board staff to locate courses for applicants or to assist in the course registration process. If/when you have completed a course in Law and Professional Ethics, please submit the Certificate of Completion to the Board.

The period of clinical service required by Section 2653 shall be certified by at least one supervising physical therapist (the supervising physical therapist is the Center Coordinator of Clinical Education and/or the Clinical Instructor) licensed by the Board, or by a physical therapy licensing authority in another jurisdiction which is accepted by the Board. Supervision means the supervising physical therapist must be onsite in the same facility and available to the physical therapist licensure applicant to provide assistance with any patient care.

The certification shall be submitted in a report to the board and shall document the supervising physical therapist's determination that the physical therapist licensure applicant possesses the skills necessary to perform any physical therapy evaluation or any physical therapy procedure of patient care within the California healthcare system. The supervising physical therapist's evaluation of the physical therapist licensure applicant shall be prepared utilizing the *Physical Therapist Clinical Performance Instrument* issued by the American Physical Therapy Association in December of 1997. The certification shall include two evaluations of the physical therapist licensure applicant's skills. One evaluation shall determine the skill level mid-way through the period of clinical service and the other evaluation shall determine the skill level at the end of the clinical service. Both evaluations shall be reported at the end of the period of clinical service. Copies of the CPI are available at this office upon request. **NOTE: Effective January 1, 2008, the Center Coordinator of Clinical Education (CCCE) must be an American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) certified clinical instructor. Effective January 1, 2010, all clinical instructors must be APTA certified.**

A postcard will be mailed to you once the office receives the CSIFs/Notice of Intent, and CPIs. Please allow 3 weeks for the Physical Therapy Board of California (PTBC) to review these documents. Do not contact the PTBC during this time frame, as we will not check on the status of these documents. A letter will be mailed notifying you of the status of your CSIF/Notice of Intent or CPI.

APPLICANTS WHO ARE LICENSED IN THE UNITED STATES

For those applicants who have been licensed and working as a physical therapist in another state for at least nine months, a waiver of further clinical service can be requested. Verification of completion of a period of clinical service in another state is required. Please fill out the attached Work Verification form and submit it to the PTBC.

For those applicants who have been licensed and working in another state for less than 9 months, the clinical service requirement will be reduced by one month for each month of licensure in another state, provided that letters of verification are submitted as specified above.

APPROVED CREDENTIAL EVALUATION SERVICES

Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy, (FCCPT) PO Box 25827, Alexandria VA, (703) 684-8406
International Consultants of Delaware, Inc., (ICD) 625 Barksdale Rd Suite 109, Newark, DE 19711 (302) 737-8715
International Credentialing Associates, Inc., (ICA) 7245 Bryan Dairy Rd, Largo FL 33777 (727) 549-8555
International Educational Consultants, Josef Silney & Associates, Inc., 7101 Southwest 102 Ave, Miami, FL 33173 (305) 273-1616
International Education Research Foundation, Inc., (IERF) PO Box 3665, Culver City, CA 90231-3655, (310) 258-9451